

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 3, please amend the paragraph at lines 10-23 as follows:

--The residence time in the reaction vessel may be from 10 minutes to 12 hours and depends in part on the time to fill and empty the vessel. The mixture in the vessel is preferably agitated to ensure thorough mixing of the sludge and acid liquid. New sludges often have a higher organic content and offensive odours due to the presence of hydrogen sulfide. For treating newer sludges it is preferred to use a closed reaction vessel to contain the hydrogen sulfide and other gases generated during the dissolution step. The head space in the closed reaction vessel may contain an ozone generation system which converts the hydrogen sulfide to sulfurous and sulfuric acid which dissolve in the liquid phase. The ozone generation system may be any conventional ozone generation system but is preferably a bank of ultraviolet light lamps emitting wavelengths that convert oxygen into ozone. Alternativley ^{[[a]]} ozone may be supplied into the head space from an external generator or supply. Where only old sludges are to be treated an open vessel is feasible--